

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of )  
 Wolfgang Schmidbauer et al. ) Group:  
 Serial No.: )  
 Filed: ) Examiner:  
 Title: DEVICE FOR CONTINUOUSLY MELTING )  
 AND REFINING INORGANIC COMPOUNDS, )  
 ESPECIALLY GLASSES AND GLASS CERAMICS )

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT DELETING**  
**MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
 Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to calculating the filing fee, please enter the following amendments to the application.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

In claim 3, line 1, delete "or 2".

In claim 5, line 1, delete "one of claims 1 to 4" and substitute therefor --claim 1--.

In claim 6, lines 1 and 2, delete "one of claims 1 to 5" and substitute therefor --claim 1--.

In claim 8, line 1, delete "one of the claims 6 or 7" and substitute therefor --claim 6--.

In claim 9, line 1, delete "one of the claims 6 to 8" and substitute therefor --claim 6--.

In claim 10, line 1, delete "one of the claims 6 to 9" and substitute therefor --claim 6--.

In claim 11, line 1, delete "one of the claims 6 to 10" and substitute therefor --claim 6--.

In claim 12, line 1, delete "one of the claims 5 to 11" and substitute therefor --claim 5--.

In claim 13, line 1, delete "one of the claims 5 to 12" and substitute therefor --claim 5--.

In claim 14, line 1, delete "one of the claims 5 to 13" and substitute therefor --claim 5--.

In claim 15, line 1, delete "one of the claims 5 to 14" and substitute therefor --claim 5--.

Please add the following new claims:

16. An apparatus as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that a cooling groove (4) is provided downstream of the refining vessel (3).

17. An apparatus as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the melting vessel (1) and/or refining vessel (3) are disposed within a conductive screening cage.

18. An apparatus as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the melting vessel (1) and/or refining vessel (3) are disposed within a conductive screening cage.

19. An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the melting vessel (1) and/or refining vessel (3) are disposed within a conductive screening cage.